

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

RSR-01 /126 W

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O R 231000 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2053

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 9074

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 23, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 23.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I: GVN / PRG BILATERALS: MORE ACRIMONY.

PART II: MR-1: THUAN THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF BEATING SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES.

PART III: MR-2: FURTHER ON DAK ROCOT FIGHTING NEAR KONTUM. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS FOR ICCS REGION III.

PART IV: MAR-3: ICCS INVESTIGATION OF PRG CHARGE OF US BOMBING IN NORTHERN BINH LONG UNDERWAY. INDODEL CHIEF DHARSONO CALLS ON LTG MINH.

PART V: MR-4: FIGHTING OFF SHARPLY. GVN PROTESTS NVA POST-CEASEFIRE INFILTRATION. MG NGHI MOVES TO CHECK VC/ NVA INFILTRATION INTO THE LOWER DELTA.

PART I: GVN/ PRG BILATERALS

GVN AND VIET CONG NEGOTIATORS MET FOR THE TWELFTH TIME IN PARIS ON MAY 22. EACH SIDE ACCUSED THE OTHER OF VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT

AND OF BAD FAITH IN GENERAL. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE ON MAY 30.

PART II: MR 1

1. ACTIVITY DECREASED IN MR 1 WITH ONLY TEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED, MADE UP OF TWO GROUND ATTACKS, SEVEN ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) (320 MORTAR ROUNDS), AND ONE TERRORISM INCIDENT. ACTION NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS WAS EXTREMELY LIGHT. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY-4 KIA, 1 MIA, 37 WIA; ENEMY-12 MIA, 8 CAPTURED, 1 RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A LOW OF 1032 ROUNDS.

2. THUA THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF, COL TON THAT KHIEM, HAS DISCUSSED HIS PLANS FOR TERRITORIAL FORCES FOR PERIOD MAY TO JULY
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WITH DIRECTOR ARRO HUE. AS BACKGROUND, COL KHIEM SAID HE FELT THE ENEMY NO LONGER HAS INTENTIONS TO CONDUCT MAJOR OFFENSIVES IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT RATHER INTENDS TO CONSOLIDATE HIS HOLDINGS IN WESTERN MR 1. IN THIS REGARD, HE REFERRED TO A PRG ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A " THIRD VIETNAM." HE INTERPRETED THE ARTILLERY ATTACKS ON THE CO GI AREA NORTHWEST OF HUE AND KIM QUY TO THE WEST OF HUE AS BEING MAINLY FOR THE PRUPOSE OF MAINTAINING PRESSURE AGAINST ARVN FORCES TO CONSOLIDATE AND PROTECT HIS OWN EFFORTS RATHER THAN INTENSIVE PROBES PREPARATORY TO MAJOR OFFENSIVE MOVES. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, K QKZY/9

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(09;2\$.8,& *94 43&89,-) *94:3 (RF) AND INTENDS TO

UTILIZE POPULAR FORCES (PF) AND PEOPLES SELF- DEFENSE FORCES

(PSDF) ELEMENTS IN A CIVIC ACTION ROLE. IN PARTICULAR, HE PLANS TO USE THEM TO CLEAR AND PLOW FIELDS IN LESS SECURE AREAS WHERE THEY CAN BOTH PROVIDE MANPOWER AND SECURITY AT THE SAME TIME. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, HE IS ALSO EMPHASIZING CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER ROADS TO THE EAST AND WEST OF ROUTE 1.

3. POLOFF HUE REPORTS THAT MOST POLITICAL PARTIES ARE CONTINUING TO FLY FLAGS IN HUE IN SPITE OF DL 060 IMPLEMENTATION. NGUYEN NGOC CU, CHIEF OF THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET PARTY (AND CURRENTLY CHIEF OF RD CADRE), TOLD POLOFF THAT HIS PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN SPITE OF DL 060 AND WILL GO UNDERGROUND IN NECESSARY.

PART III: MR 2

1. MILITARY ACTION WAS AT A LOW LEVEL DURING PAST 24- HOUR PERIOD WITH 11 INCIDENTS REPORTED: FIVE VC MININGS (FOUR OF RVNAF TROOPS, ONE OF CIVILIANS); FOUR VC HARASSMENLE BY FIRE; AND TWO FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN RVNAF UNITS ON PATROL AND VC. CASUALTIES: VC- NINE KIA; RVNAF- THREE KIA, 13 WIA.

2. KONTUM ARRO REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT SHARP FIGHTING IN DAK ROCOT AREA EIGHT KMS NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY BEGAN IN LATE APRIL WHEN THE 53 RD ARVN REGIMENT REPLACED THE 44 TH ARVN REGIMENT IN THAT AREA. SINCE THE CEASEFIRE WENT INTO EFFECT THE COMMANDER OF THE 44 TH REGIMENT HAD BEEN IN FREQUENT

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 9074

CONTACT WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE 60 NVA REGIMENT (DEPLOYED IN ZONE NORTH OF KONTUM SINCE MID-1972), AND THE TWO HAD APPARENTLY AGREED TO MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION WHICH CEDED DAK ROCOT HAMLET TO COMMUNISTS. AFTER THE ROTATION OF THE 53 RD AND 44 TH REGIMENTS, ARVN LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK AGAINST A BATTALION OF THE 66 TH NVA REGIMENT ENTRENCHED AROUND DAK ROCOT; THE FIGHTING WHICH ENSUED IS STILL ONGOING, THOUGH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AMOUNT OF TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY EITHER SIDE HAS NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLY SINCE CEASEFIRE. (CONGEN COMMENT: WE RECALL MR 2 CG TOAN' S VISIT TO KONTUM APR 25-26 DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE OVER SCOPE OF CONTACTS. END COMMENT)

3. THREE ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN ICCS REGION III WHICH SHOULD HELP THE ICCS' EFFECTIVENESS AND/ OR MORALE.

A. PA& E PLEIKU HAS FINALLY RECEIVED SPECIFICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF ICCS AIR SERVICES CREW QUARTERS IN PLEIKU AND ESTIMATES WORK CAN BE COMPLETED IN TWO WEEKS.

B. PA& E REPORTS EMBASSY' S DAO HAS MADE AVAILABLE NEEDED AIR CONDITIONERS FOR ICCS QUI NHON WHICH WILL ALLOW ICCS TO EVACUATE HOTEL WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING AT CONSIDERABLE COST AND INCONVENIENCE.

C. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, PA& E IS NOW AUTHORIZED TO DRAW LIQUOR SUPPLIES FOR SUPPORT OF ICCS REGION III.

4. THE CAM RANH POINT OF ENTRY TEAM IS DOWN TO ONLY ONE CANADIAN AND ONE INDONESIAN. GVN AUTHORITIES HAVE TOLD MAJ ARNOLD THAT HE IS FREE TO GO ANYWHERE AT ANYTIME; HOWEVER, IF THE ICCS WANTED TO CHECK ANY CARGOES, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF THE TPJMC.

5. MAJ ARNOLD TOLD OUR ARRO REP THAT IN JUNE THE CANADIANS WILL HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ICCS AND THAT THEY ARE GOING TO PUSH POINT OF ENTRY TEAMS, NOT ONLY WITH THE GVN BUT ALSO

WITH THE PRG.

PART IV: MR 3

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 REMAINED AT LOW LEVEL DURING 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HRS MAY 23. THERE WERE 12 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED: THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), EIGHT GROUND CONTACTS, AND ONE MINING. TOTAL CASUALTIES WERE ONE RVNAF KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED, AND 13 NVA/ VC KILLED. TONG LE CHAN RANGER BASE CAMP RECEIVED 50 ROUNDS
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OF MIXED MORTAR AND ROCKET FIRE; NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WERE REPORTED.

2. CANDEL TOLD CONGEN THIS MORNING THAT ICCS CHOPPERS TOOK OFF FROM REGION V JMC PAD FOR LOC NINH TODAY AT 1015 TO BEGIN INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED US BOMBING OF NORTHERN LOC NINH DISTRICT, BINH LONG. CHOPPER CONTAINED PRG LTCOL, MAJOR, AND CAPTAIN FROM TPJMC IN SAIGON; THREE RVNAF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TPJMC V OF RANK DELIBERATELY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF THE PRG; THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF FOUR ICCS V CHIP DELEGATIONS; AND THREE CANADIAN JOURNALISTS. DEPARTURE OF CHOPPERS FROM SAIGON WAS DELAYED BY LATE ARRIVAL OF PRG LIAISON OFFICERS. IN BIEN HOA, ORIGINALLY MANIFESTED POLISH INTERPRETER WHO HAS NEVER BEFORE FLOWN IN A HELICOPTER, REFUSED TO GO; HE WAS REPLACED AND BANISHED TO BEN CAT TEAM.

3. CANDEL SAID INVESTIGATION WAS OPEN- ENDED AND HE WAS NOT SURE WHEN INVESTIGATORS WOULD RETURN TO BIEN HOA. HE THOUGHT THAT PRG, WHO HAD REQUESTED INVESTIGATION AND GIVEN WRITTEN SECURITY GUARANTEES, WOULD PROBABLY BE ON BEST BEHAVIOR.

4. MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH YESTERDAY, FOLLOWING COURTESY CALL OF INDODEL HEAD GENERAL DHARSONO, TOLD CONGEN THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE DHARSONO VISIT. ACCORDING TO MINH, DHARSONO HAD INDICATED THAT INDONESIA IS COMMITTED TO THE GVN CAUSE AND THAT THE INDONESIANS, THOUGH GROWING IMPATIENT WITH HUNGDEL/ POLDEL TACTICS, WHICH HE REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED AS " WRECKING THE PEACE," WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITHIN THE ICCS FRAMEWORK.

PART V: MR 4

1. FIGHTING IN MR IV FELL OFF SHARPLY MAY 22. THE GVN DISPLAYED RECENTLY INFILTRATED NVA PRISONERS TO ICCS AS PROOF OF COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. ARVN RANGER BATTALIONS HAVE REDEPLOYED TO CHECK VC/ NVA INFILTRATIONS. END SUMMARY. FIGHTING DECLINED SHARPLY MAY 22. MR IV REPORTED ONLY 25 INCIDENTS-- NO GROUND ATTACKS, 14 ATTACKS BY FIRE, NINE HARASSMENTS, AND TWO TERRORIST INCIDENTS. EVEN HARD PRESSED CHUONG THIEN EXPERIENCED ONLY LIGHT ACTION. CASUALTIES WERE CORRESPONDINGLY LIGHT: 13 RVNAF KILLED AND 70

WOUNDED, 58 VC/ NVA DEAD AND FIVE CAPTURED.
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2. THE GVN/ JMC MAY 20 FORMALLY PROTESTED NVA POST- CEASEFIRE INFILTRATION TO THE REGIONAL ICCS. THE GVN INVITED ICCS MEMBERS TO INTERVIEW FOUR NVA PRISONERS WHO ADMITTED ENTERING SOUTH VIETNAM AFTER JANUARY 28. ONE PRISONER, FROM THE 21 ST RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY OF THE 207 NVA REGIMENT, WAS TAKEN MARCH 21 NEAR HONG NGU, KIEN PHONG PROVINCE. THE GVN CAPTURED THE OTHERS MAY 16 IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE. THE THREE, INCLUDING TWO OFFICERS, BELONGED TO THE NVA 5 TH DIVISION' S E-3 REGIMENT. ACCORDING TO THE VICE CONSUL IN MY THO, THE GVN DELAYED FILING THE PROTEST UNTIL THE CANADIANS ASSUMED REGION VII CHAIRMANSHIP MAY 20.

3. FOR SOMETIME MR IV COMMANDER MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI HAS PRESSED THE JGS TO PERMIT HIM TO MORE FREELY USE HIS RANGER BATTALIONS. THE CORPS RANGER BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN TIED TO TACTICAL ARWP#

TAJTFE VOD

MTJXARQYI# USUALLY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DEPLOY THEM AT WILL. SEVERAL SIGNS SUGGEST NGHI IS WINNING HIS POINT. WE REPORTED TWO RANGER BATTALIONS' DEPLOYMENT INTO NORTHERN CHUONG THEIN PROVINCE ALONG THE KIEN GIANG BORDER MAY 21. MR IV NOW CARRIES THE 94 TH RANGER BATTALION ON THE BORDER OF THE 21 ST DIVISION TAOR IN KIEN BINH DISTRICT OF KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. IN ADDITION TO CONTROLLING VC/ NVA MOVES IN THESE AREAS, THE NEWLY DEPLOYED RANGER BATTALIONS SIT ASTRIDE THE VC/ NVA 1- C SUPPLY ROUTE. REPORTS REACH MR IV WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY THAT THE VC ARE INFILTRATING MEN AND MATERIAL INTO THE SOUTHERN DELTA. DURING HIS MAY 11 CONFERENCE WITH DIVISION COMMANDERS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS, NGHI EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE INFILTRATION RATE AND GAVE ORDERS FOR REGULAR AND TERRITORIAL FORCES TO DEPLOY IN GREATER STRENGTH ALONG THE 1- C SUPPLY ROUTE.

4. CAMBODIAN REFUGEES: ABOUT 16,000 CIVILIAN REFUGEES FROM THE CAMBODIAN FIGHTING HAVE SOUGHT SUCOR IN VIETNAM. NEARLY 1000 ETHNIC VIETNAMESE FROM CAMBODIA HAVE FOUND SHELTER AT AN ABANDONED AIRSTRIP IN AN LONG VILLAGE, DONG TIEN DISTRICT, KIEN PHONG. FIFTEEN THOUSAND CAMBODIANS HAVE CROSSED THE FRONTIER INTO CHAU DOC SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. MOST OF THE
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KHMER REFUGEES ARE IN TWO CAMPS NEAR TINH BIEN DISTRICT TOWN. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE WORKERS HAVE IMPROVE SANITATION AND HOUSING FACILITIES AND DISTRIBUTED FOOD.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/ T: PART V (3) (##) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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